Discourse Community/Genre Assignment

Genre: Biography

The art of biography is a written in literature that is made in order to record a description of a famous person, but it is written by some else. People who fall in this category can be famous politicians, actors, athletes, singers, writers, etc. In the article *Rollyson explains the art of biography*, by Aldemaro Romero Jr. In this article Romero includes what Rollyson states about the genre of biography. Aldemaro Romero Jr. is a Venezuelan/American scientist, communicator, and advocate of liberal arts education. On the other side, Dr. Carl Rollyson, is a professor of Journalism at Baruch College, the City University of New York, has published more than forty books ranging in subject matter from biographies of Marylin Monroe and other famous people. In the article Romero quotes what Rollyson stated, “I think people read biographies simply to learn. I think it was (the writer Ralph Waldo) Emerson who said that biography is teaching by example. People want these examples and Emerson himself was a great one for talking about the lives of people.” This demonstrates that biographies are really good because from them people learn about the lives of famous people that exist and existed in the globe. Later in, the same article, Rollyson explains what makes up a good biography and how it is differentiated by a bad biography. “A biography is arranged, though it doesn’t have to be chronologically, it, nevertheless, has to follow some kind of basic core or truth or pattern in the subject’s life.” Then he explains a bad written biography. “What makes a bad biography is essentially when the biographer keeps saying, ‘look at what I found.’” This shows how to identify a good and bad biography, and the difficulty of writing a biography.

Although, writing a biography requires a lot of research and evidence in order to prove that what is written is true. However, sometimes there is lack of information due to the fact that many famous people existed early in the years and there is little, or none documents stating their life such as an exact birthday, and birthplace. In the article *Biography,* written by Paul Murray Kendall, an American academic and historian, states, “A biographer in pursuit of an individual long dead is usually hampered by a lack of sources: it is often impossible to check or verify what written evidence there is; there are no witness to cross-examine. No method has yet been developed by which to overcome such problems.” This evidence clearly demonstrates that some biographies are difficult to prove the information they contain due to the time period on which certain person lived in. This is also a good example of the sacrifice that biographers have to do in order to record the more accurate information possible in order for people to get the right information.

Examples for this Genre:

**Albert Einstein**  
The Nobel Prize in Physics 1921

Born: 14 March 1879, Ulm, Germany

Died: 18 April 1955, Princeton, NJ, USA

Affiliation at the time of the award: Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut (now Max-Planck-Institut) für Physik, Berlin, Germany

Prize motivation: "for his services to Theoretical Physics, and especially for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect."

Albert Einstein received his Nobel Prize one year later, in 1922.

### Life

### Albert Einstein grew up in Munich, where his father founded an electrical engineering company. After studying at the ETH university in Zurich, Einstein worked at the patent office in Bern, during which time he produced several pioneering works in the field of physics. He was later employed at universities in Bern, Zurich, and Prague, and from 1914, in Berlin. After the Nazis seized power in Germany, Einstein immigrated to the US, where he worked at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Albert Einstein married twice and had three children by his first marriage.

### Work

### If metal electrodes are exposed to light, electrical sparks between them occur more readily. For this "photoelectric effect" to occur, the light waves must be above a certain frequency, however. According to physics theory, the light's intensity should be critical. In one of several epoch-making studies beginning in 1905, Albert Einstein explained that light consists of quanta - "packets" with fixed energies corresponding to certain frequencies. One such light quantum, a photon, must have a certain minimum frequency before it can liberate an electron.

# Dr. Seuss’s Biography

Dr. Seuss’s Biography

Brilliant, playful, and always respectful of children, Dr. Seuss charmed his way into the consciousness of four generations of youngsters and parents. In the process, he helped millions of children learn to read.

Dr. Seuss was born Theodor Seuss Geisel in Springfield, Massachusetts, on March 2, 1904. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1925, he went to Oxford University, intending to acquire a doctorate in literature. At Oxford, Geisel met Helen Palmer, whom he wed in 1927. Upon his return to America later that year, Geisel published cartoons and humorous articles for Judge, the leading humor magazine in America at the time. His cartoons also appeared in major magazines such as Life, Vanity Fair, and Liberty. Geisel gained national exposure when he won an advertising contract for an insecticide called Flit. He coined the phrase, "Quick, Henry, the Flit!" which became a popular expression.

Geisel developed the idea for his first children's book in 1936 while on a vacation cruise. The rhythm of the ship's engine drove the cadence to And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street.

During World War II, Geisel joined the Army and was sent to Hollywood where he wrote documentaries for the military. During this time, he also created a cartoon called Gerald McBoing-Boing which won him an Oscar.

The Cat in the Hat Is Born

In May of 1954, Life published a report on illiteracy among schoolchildren, suggesting that children were having trouble reading because their books were boring. This problem inspired Geisel's publisher, prompting him to send Geisel a list of 400 words he felt were important for children to learn. The publisher asked Geisel to cut the list to 250 words and use them to write an entertaining children's book. Nine months later, Geisel, using 225 of the words given to him, published The Cat in the Hat, which brought instant success.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1984 and three Academy Awards, Geisel authored and illustrated 44 children's books. His enchanting stories are available as audiocassettes, animated television specials, and videos.

While Theodor Geisel died on September 24, 1991, Dr. Seuss lives on, inspiring generations of children of all ages to explore the joys of reading.

**Eros Ramazzotti**

Eros Ramazzotti, (born October 28, 1963, [Rome](https://www.britannica.com/place/Rome), Italy), Italian popular [singer-songwriter](https://www.britannica.com/art/singer-songwriter) whose vibrant tenor voice and passionate love songs enchanted audiences in [Italy](https://www.britannica.com/place/Italy) and throughout the world from the late 1980s.

Born in an impoverished suburb of Rome, Ramazzotti was named after the [Greek god of love](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Eros-Greek-god) as a symbol of luck. Encouraged by his father, an aspiring singer and musician, Ramazzotti began to play the guitar at the age of seven. Because of a lack of musical background, however, he was refused entry into the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, the preeminent [music conservatory](https://www.britannica.com/art/conservatory-musical-institution)in Rome. In 1981 he made his [singing](https://www.britannica.com/art/singing) debut at the New Voices of Castrocaro talent competition, where he signed a recording contract. “Ad un amico” (“To A Friend”), his first single, was released the following year. Ramazzotti enrolled in the Sanremo Festival of Italian Song, a highly regarded pop-music competition in Italy, in 1984 and won with the song “Terra promessa” (“Promised Land”); it was featured on his album *Cuori agitati* (1985; “Restless Hearts”). His second album, *Nuovi eroi* (1986; “New Heroes”), which proved to be an even bigger success, was followed by *In certi momenti* (“Some Moments”) in 1987. With the release of each album, his popularity soared, and he soon became an international star. *In ogni senso* (1990; “In Every Sense”), which sold millions of copies worldwide within a few years of its release, was the first major success for Ramazzotti in the United States.

In 1991 Ramazzotti made his first world tour, which included a performance at Radio City Music Hall in [New York City](https://www.britannica.com/place/New-York-City). After the performance, however, he expressed disappointment that his audience had consisted largely of Italian Americans. To give his sound a more international flavour, he employed the talents of musicians and vocalists who had performed with such well-known artists as [Sting](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sting-British-musician), [Pink Floyd](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pink-Floyd), [Céline Dion](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Celine-Dion), and [Stevie Wonder](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Stevie-Wonder), and he [collaborated](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/collaborated)with other internationally popular artists, including [Tina Turner](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Tina-Turner), on his *Eros*(1997) album and concert tour. In 1999 he received a German Echo Award for best [international music](https://www.britannica.com/art/world-music) artist. Many of Ramazzotti’s subsequent albums, such as *9* (2003), *Calma Apparente* (2005; “Apparent Calm”), and *E2* (2007) topped the international charts; he remained most popular, however, among Italian- and Spanish-speaking audiences. Later notable recordings included *Noi* (2012; “We”) and *Perfetto* (2015; “Perfect”).

**Abraham Lincoln**

Abraham Lincoln became the United States’ 16th President in 1861, issuing the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy in 1863.

Lincoln warned the South in his Inaugural Address: “In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The government will not assail you…. You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it.”

Lincoln thought secession illegal, and was willing to use force to defend Federal law and the Union. When Confederate batteries fired on Fort Sumter and forced its surrender, he called on the states for 75,000 volunteers. Four more slave states joined the Confederacy but four remained within the Union. The Civil War had begun.

The son of a Kentucky frontiersman, Lincoln had to struggle for a living and for learning. Five months before receiving his party’s nomination for President, he sketched his life:

“I was born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families–second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks…. My father … removed from Kentucky to … Indiana, in my eighth year…. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up…. Of course when I came of age I did not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write, and cipher … but that was all.”

Lincoln made extraordinary efforts to attain knowledge while working on a farm, splitting rails for fences, and keeping store at New Salem, Illinois. He was a captain in the Black Hawk War, spent eight years in the Illinois legislature, and rode the circuit of courts for many years. His law partner said of him, “His ambition was a little engine that knew no rest.”

He married Mary Todd, and they had four boys, only one of whom lived to maturity. In 1858 Lincoln ran against Stephen A. Douglas for Senator. He lost the election, but in debating with Douglas he gained a national reputation that won him the Republican nomination for President in 1860.

As President, he built the Republican Party into a strong national organization. Further, he rallied most of the northern Democrats to the Union cause. On January 1, 1863, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy.

Lincoln never let the world forget that the Civil War involved an even larger issue. This he stated most movingly in dedicating the military cemetery at Gettysburg: “that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain–that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom–and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Lincoln won re-election in 1864, as Union military triumphs heralded an end to the war. In his planning for peace, the President was flexible and generous, encouraging Southerners to lay down their arms and join speedily in reunion.

The spirit that guided him was clearly that of his Second Inaugural Address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C.: “With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds…. ”

On Good Friday, April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford’s Theatre in Washington by John Wilkes Booth, an actor, who somehow thought he was helping the South. The opposite was the result, for with Lincoln’s death, the possibility of peace with magnanimity died.

*The Presidential biographies on WhiteHouse.gov are from “The Presidents of the United States of America,” by Frank Freidel and Hugh Sidey. Copyright 2006 by the White House Historical Association.*

**Martin Luther King Jr.**

Martin Luther King, Jr., (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family’s long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, serving from 1914 to 1931; his father has served from then until the present, and from 1960 until his death Martin Luther acted as co-pastor. Martin Luther attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a distinguished Negro institution of Atlanta from which both his father and grandfather had graduated. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. With a fellowship won at Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving the degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

In 1954, Martin Luther King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Always a strong worker for civil rights for members of his race, King was, by this time, a member of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the leading organization of its kind in the nation. He was ready, then, early in December, 1955, to accept the leadership of the first great Negro nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States, the bus boycott described by Gunnar Jahn in his presentation speech in honor of the laureate. The boycott lasted 382 days. On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Negroes and whites rode the buses as equals. During these days of boycott, King was arrested, his home was bombed, he was subjected to personal abuse, but at the same time he emerged as a Negro leader of the first rank.

In 1957 he was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to provide new leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. The ideals for this organization he took from Christianity; its operational techniques from Gandhi. In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles. In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience. and inspiring his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”, a manifesto of the Negro revolution; he planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of Negroes as voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, “l Have a Dream”, he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson; he was arrested upwards of twenty times and assaulted at least four times; he was awarded five honorary degrees; was named Man of the Year by *Time*magazine in 1963; and became not only the symbolic leader of American blacks but also a world figure.

At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of $54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city, he was assassinated.

**Guillermo del Toro**

Born on October 9, 1964, Guillermo del Toro was able to parlay his childhood love of the macabre into a highly successful career as a filmmaker, making his feature debut in 1993 with *Cronos*. He helmed the comic-book adaptations *Blade II*and *Hellboy*before directing *Pan’s Labyrinth*, an acclaimed, artfully distinguished film that was nominated for a Foreign Language Film Academy Award. Del Toro also directed the action blockbuster *Pacific Rim* and the haunted house/period piece *Crimson Peak*, before snagging his first Oscar win for Best Director with the sci-fi romance *The Shape of Water.*

Background

Future filmmaker Guillermo del Toro was born on October 9, 1964 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Having a taste for the macabre at an early age, del Toro decorated his family home with decidedly spooky elements. He started creating shorts in high school and later attended the film school Centro de Investigación y Estudios Cinematográficos. In the mid-1980s, he created his own effects company, Necropia, geared towards the Mexican film market.

Haunting Early Films

Del Toro made his feature debut in 1993 with the Spanish/English film *Cronos*. An antiques shopkeeper, after discovering a gilded device, begins to undergo a startling form of vampiric transformation, with his granddaughter witnessing the change. The film, which co-starred Ron Perlman (an eventual regular collaborator with the director) won an array of honors, including eight Ariel Awards from the Mexican Academy of Film.

Del Toro followed up this work with *Mimic*, a 1997 Miramax production that starred [Mira Sorvino](http://www.biography.com/people/mira-sorvino-9542375) and [Josh Brolin](http://www.biography.com/people/josh-brolin-413154)in a tale of gargantuan bugs run amok in New York City. The project soured del Toro a bit on working in the confines of Hollywood, and for his next feature he turned toward Spanish history. *The Devil’s Backbone* (2001), co-produced by fellow filmmaker [Pedro Almodóvar](http://www.biography.com/people/pedro-almod%C3%B3var-21273055), is a serious, stark tale focusing on a group of children struggling to survive at a haunted orphanage during the Spanish Civil War.

**Analysis**

With the examples provide we can analyze this type of genre as a way of teaching people about famous people lives, quotes, works, family, background and anything that relates to them. The main message that these examples share is that they contain information about the live of famous people, but this information is really accurate as the biographer has to do a lot of research on a certain person’s life in order to write his/her biography. For this type of genre all the examples share the same message. The audience that these examples are directed is to the public in general, and more for those who want to find out more about who a certain famous person is. Throughout these examples there are some differences. This is because different authors include a little more information than others. Also, the organization is sometimes different between the examples. There is a style that they all share which is to include first the main information about the person they are writing about. That information is their complete name, place and year of birth, profession, and family background. Then the biographer includes the main projects, roles that the character had during his life period. The examples are part of informative language.

**Analysis of one example**

I chose Martin Luther King Jr. biography. The producer of this biography is the Nobel Prize Organization, which is an organization that supports the goal of Nobel Foundation which is a foundation that keeps the will of Alfred Nobel for awarding such prizes to people who deserves them. The message of this biography is to point out the life of Martin Luther king Jr. so that people can learn about his life and why he is a famous person. This work is directed to anyone who wants to learn about the life of Martin Luther King Jr. There constraints in this text by the developer in this case, Nobel Prize Organization states that in order to publish documents that contain information from their website the author should first get the permission to do so and include the proper citation for the information gathered from their website. This text is really important for our society in general because these types of genre helps us to learn more about people that have accomplish something really important in our city, country, or world. The concepts that are most used on this genre are important dates, names, and projects that involve in the life of the person whose biography is written. In my opinion a biography is really significant itself because it contains a lot of useful information that leaves us with the understanding of a person.

**Own Example**

**Biography of Rafael Correa**

Rafael Correa was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 1963. Was the 95th President of the Republic of Ecuador for three consecutive periods, the first one from 2007-2011, the second from

2009-2013 and from 2013 to 2017. His political movement is PAIS (Patria Altiva I Soberana) which translated means Homeland Haughty and Sovereign. His father was Rafael Correa Icaza, born in the province of Los Rios in March 23rd of 1935 and died at the age of 60. Correa’s mother was also born in the same province as his father, in September 1 of 1939. Rafel Correa has one brother, Fabricio Correa, and two sisters, Pierina and Bernarda Correa, who died at the age of 11 as a result of a drowning in a swimming pool in a condominium under the care of her other’s family.

Education

Rafael Correa finish his primary and secondary studies in the Catholic School San Jose-La Salle, located in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Because of his outstanding grades Correa earned an scholarship to Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil (Catholic University of Santiago of Guayaquil). Which is a private institution of higher education, where he graduated in Economics in the year 1987. After some time, he earned another scholarship that allow him to get a master’s degree in Economics in the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Although, through an academic exchange sponsored by Universidad San Francisco de Quito (Saint Francis University of Quito), Correa studied at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States, and earned his doctorate in 2001.

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